In Research G-6 (1946-1947) 1947 MAIL Kurd MAIL Mahabad

The fall of Tabriz was the cue for Qazi Mohammad to declare
668 his own area independent — which in fact long been in fact. On
692 December, 15 or a meeting in Mahabad attended by tribal chiefs, the leaders of the new Kurdish Democrat Party, Mulla Mustafa, and three Soviet officers in a jeep and armed with tommy-guns, he solemnly inaugurated the Kurdish People's Government and raised the Kurdish flag. A national parliament of thirteen members was formed, and on January 22, 1946, Qazi Mohammad was elected president of the new republic. The Ministry of War was his cousin, Mohammad Hussein Khan Seif Qazi, a subchief whose military reputation rested on his honorary rank of captain in the Iranian gendarmerie. Seif Qazi, Mulla Mustafa, Amir Khan Shikak, Hamza Rashid Khan Bozai (just returned from Iraq with his tribesmen), and Zare Beg Harki* received the rank of "marshal," and were provided with Soviet uniforms, complete with high boots, stiff shoulder-straps, and red-banded garrison caps.*

578 The new government, which controlled only a minute territory
668 including the towns of Mahabad, Bukan, Naqadeh, and Ushnavieh, met elsewhere to the opening of the Azerbaijan National Parliament and even convoked a miniature parliament of its own. It also dispatched Mulla Mustafa south to fight the Iranian garrisons in Saqqiz, Banah, and Sardasht, cut off from each other and their base in Sanandaj by the heavy winter snows.

RELATIONS WITH TABRIZ AND TEHRAN

Meanwhile in the north the capture of Ramiah by the Azerbaijani Democrats brought new problems to the Kurdish government. Although the majority of the inhabitants of the plains were

777 *Zare Beg was a Jaafari chief originally associated with the Barzan Shaikh Ahmad clan. Banished from the latter's domain and exiled by Reza Shah, Zare Beg fled to Iraq, returning in 1941 to carve out a domain for himself in the Harsinian valley. He was often seen with Soviet political officers and seems to have had personal contact with Stalin. Although of little importance in the area today, the Harki, some of whom still followed their hereditary chiefs, were Soviet connections considered him as likely an important role in developments in Kurdistan.*

623 *Other officials of the new government were Faqi Taha Shafiq, local religious leader, Prime
624 Minister; Sadiq Shaikhani, Minister of Works and Propaganda; Fereidun Qazi, Minister of Education; Mohammad Amin Wafiq, Minister of Communications; Ahmad Qazi, Minister of the Treasury; Sayyid Mohammad Tabatabai, Minister of Health and Khaqani Shaikhani, Minister of the Interior. Only one of these men had been among the founders of the Komala, but all belonged to the middle or upper classes — small merchants, officials, landlords.*